

**INTERPRETATIONS & APPLICATIONS
OF BUILDING CODES & REGULATIONS #87-4**



CODE SECTION : UBC TABLE 31-B

5/3/96

SUBJECT : CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL MASONRY CHIMNEYS

The Uniform Building Code, Table No. 31-B, requires a 2 inch clearance between a residential masonry chimney and combustible construction. The minimum requirement for the chimney wall thickness is 4 inches.

Wood ledgers with a nominal dimension in width of not less than 3 inches will be permitted for attachment to a reinforced bond beam at chimneys constructed of 8 inch minimum thick hollow masonry units. All masonry cells that are adjacent to the wood ledger shall be grouted solid.

Beam pockets will be permitted in masonry chimneys only where beams are supported by a 3 inch minimum length of bearing upon a continuous reinforced masonry member and a minimum dimension of 8 inches is maintained between the beam end and the flue (dimension to include the space within the chimney cavity). The beam end shall be provided with 1/2 inch air space on top, sides and end, unless wood is treated or of natural resistance to decay. A vapor barrier shall be provided at the bottom of the beam bearing end. In lieu of 1/2 inch air space, a vapor barrier may be provided on all sides of the beam end.

A chimney shall be designed as a load-bearing member, when supporting structural loads. All chimneys shall conform to other requirements of Chapter 31 of the Uniform Building Code.